Subject: Gold medallions -- plaster impressions of.

Kelsey, Francis Willey

[University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, MI]

1915-1918

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UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR

May 25, 1915.

Dear Mr. Wood:

Mr. Charles L. Freer is in California but by last mail I received from him a letter authorizing the making of plaster impressions of the gold medallions which we wish to publish the present year. I am asking his curator, Mr. Stephen Warring, to send these to you by prepaid express. If at your convenience you will most kindly make impressions of both sides of each of the medallions, that will be most helpful. When the work is done will you be good enough to send the medallions and the impressions by express "collect" under the same insurance as that specified on the package received to this address:

Mr. Stephen Warring,
C/o Mr. Charles L. Freer,
33, Ferry Avenue, East,
Detroit, Michigan.

Will you be good enough to write me when you send the package and enclose to me the statement of account?

Thanking you again for your helpfulness in this important matter, I remain

Faithfully yours,

Francis W. Kelsey

Mr. Howland Wood.

May 27, 1915.

Mr. Francis W. Kelsey
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor,
Michigam.

My dear Mr Kelsey:-

Your letter of May 25th at hand stating that there will come by express, from Mr. Freer's collection, some gold medallions which you want plaster impressions of.

These I will gladly attend to and will return the same to Mr. Stephen Warring. I note that you say to return the impressions as well as the medallions to Mr. Warring.

Under separate cover I am sending you nine sets of plaster casts. Eight of these at from coins borrowed from Mr. E. T. Newell of this city and the other is from a coin in our own collection. I have marked on the back of each cast either A.N.S. or E.T.N. with numbers in pairs so you can tell which obverse belongs to which reverse.

If you see Herbert Cross kindly remember me to him and tell him I trust I will see him at our 15th reunion of Commencement.

Very truly yours,

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR

June 2, 1915.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Mr. Warring has sent me your letter of May 29. I am sorry that the medallions are making you so much trouble. We have used the same method of photographing which is used in the British Museum for such objects, with a first-class operator here who is trained in such work; but the results ~~are~~ of direct photographing are not quite so good as we would like, so we sent them medallions on to see whether a cast would solve the problem.

If we could get the body with the inscription even without the beaded edge, that would be a gain; of course we do not want the chain and fastenings, as these come out clearly in the photograph. I ought to have written you about these details at the start, as the work is being done for the University of Michigan Publications.

Thanking you again for your patience and kind assistance, I remain

Yours sincerely,

Francis W. Kelsey

Mr. Howland Wood.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR

June 5, 1915.

My dear Mr. Wood:

By this mail I send you some photographs which show about what we have been able to do with the medallions. I shall be greatly interested in hearing what you think of the possibilities in that direction. We wish to make heliotype plates.

There is no occasion whatever for haste about this matter. But when you make the casts, it will be a saving of trouble for Mr. Freer's curator if it would not be inconvenient for you to send the casts of the medallions to me when you return the originals to Mr. Warring.

Faithfully yours,

Francis W. Kelsey

Mr. Howland Wood

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR

July 2, 1915.

My dear Mr. Wood:

I am delighted to have your letter of June 25, which came when I was out at a cottage having a few days' vacation. The photographs arrived promptly, and are most satisfactory. I regret to have made you so much trouble in securing the casts.

Will you be so kind as to inform me how much I may have the pleasure of remitting to you for this work and the prints?

Will you be good enough to send the gold medallions to this address (collect):

Mr. Stephen Warring,
C/o Mr. Charles L. Freer,
33, Ferry Avenue East,
Detroit, Michigan?

I gave your message to Professor Cross, but he was unable to reach Providence in time for Commencement.

Thanking you again for your help in this important matter, I remain,

Cordially yours,

Francis W. Kelsey

Mr. Howland Wood.

August 4th, 1916.

Mr. Francis W. Kelsey,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

Dear Mr. Kelsey:-

Your letter found me here, although I do wish I was off. From what I can learn we are not having the intensely hot weather that you are, though it is hot enough.

The question of the origin of types on Gallic coins is almost unanswerable in many instances. I am sending you herewith all of the data concerning these pieces taken from as far as we know the last word on the subject.

No. 8472 you will note they say nothing about its derivation. It, however, falls into a large class of coins originally copied from those of Philip of Macedonia, which, as you know, became more and more degenerated until hardly any clue to the original prototype was left. The reverse side with a horse is easy enough to determine. The obverse probably was evolved by a die cutter from a very degenerated Philip head composed of dots, curves and meaningless lines. If you hold the piece sideways you might possibly imagine how the artist, that made this coin, used as his model one of those Philip pieces, and reconstructed something entirely new from it.

The other coin, No. 8040, has been a subject of discussion for years. An outline of this discussion is copied from Blanchet.

If I can help you any more, let me know.

Yours very truly,

Traité des Monnaies Gauloises par Adrien Blanchet. Première Partie.
Paris, 1905.

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Les détails de la gravure des monnaies gauloises ne sont pas assez nets (De plus, les monnaies gauloises sont souvent mal frappées et beaucoup d'exemplaires retrouvés sont fort usés) pour que nous puissions traiter utilement la question du costume et ce qu'on a écrit à ce sujet est peu concluant. Un bronze, attribué aux Ambiani, de très fort relief (Fig. 17), est utile pour la question, bien qu'on ne puisse dire si la figure porte des bracelets sur les bras ou s'il s'agit des manches courtes d'une tunique.

Page 380.

Il n'est pas douteux que le bronze si commun aux trois têtes (Fig. 386) portant, au droit et au revers, la legende REMO (Remorum?), a été frappé dans la cité des Remi. Mais on ne s'accorde pas sur l'explication du type. F. de Saulcy, suivant l'opinion d'anciens auteurs, Spon et Sirmond, y voyait les têtes des trois Gaules (Rev. Num., 1867, p. 172 - Lettres, p. 304). D'autres y ont retrouvé les profils des triumvirs, Antoine, Lépide et Octave (A. Duchalais, Descr., p. 219; E. Hucher, l'Art gaulois, 2e partie, p. 103; Ch.Robert, Descr. de sa collection, p. 76; Rollin et Feuardent, Catal. d'une coll. de medailles gauloises, 1864, no 352 (comparaison avec une pièce d'Ephèse). A. de Barthélemy y a vu la personnification des trois peuples dont les Remi avaient le principatus (Cf. L. Maxe-Werly, État actuel de la Numism. rémoise, 1889, p. 9.). Sans nous attarder à l'hypothèse du mythe de Géryon tricéphale (J. de Witte, Rev. archéol., 1875, p. 383), il faut rappeler l'idée de Duquénelle qui reconnaissait, sur ces petites monnaies de bronze, les trois têtes de Mercure qu'il retrouvait également sur les nombreux termes tricéphales, découverts à Reims même (Cf. aussi E. Hucher, dans R. N., 1863, p. 58).

Mais on a déjà fait remarquer que deux exemplaires de la pièce aux trois bustes ont été recueillis dans les fouilles de Grésigny-sous Alise; il faut donc admettre que cette monnaie est contemporaine de la campagne de César (L. Maxe-Werly, loc cit., p. 10). Peut-être faut-il supposer, avec Saulcy, qu'elle fut frappee a l'epoque de l'assemblee des députés de la Gaule à Reims, en 53 avant J.-C. En tout cas, le revers paraît copié sur celui d'un denier romain (On a dit que le prototype était un denier de C. Coilius Caldus. Mais cela ne me parait pas demontre, car il y bien d'autres deniers de la République portant un bige, et il est indifferemt qu'il soit tourné à droite ou à gauche.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN STUDIES
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

February 3, 1917.

My dear Mr. Wood:

Recalling your courtesy on previous occasions I make bold to ask you about the interpretation of a Gallic coin struck at Lugdunum probably near the beginning of the reign of Augustus.

I have somewhere read that the three heads are thought to represent the three newly organized Roman provinces of Gaul. Can you throw any light on the subject, or is there a more probable interpretation? Our numismatic literature does not seem to cover the case, or if it does, I have not located the reference.

Thanking you again for any kind help you may be able to render I remain

Yours faithfully,

H. W. Kelsey

Mr. Howland Wood.

Art in Stephens Rev
last year

Lugdunum

9031

April 9, 1917.

Prof. W. Kelsey
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor,
Michigan.

Dear Mr. Kelsey:-

I beg to apologize for not answering your letter concerning the Gallic coin struck at Lugdunum. I cannot tell you anything new about it though I am sure that I gave seen in recent years some entirely new account concerning the piece. I handed your letter to Mr. Newell who thought that he could trace it for you and he mislaid the letter, consequently the delay.

The piece is given in Cohen under Galba and shows an inscription over the horse reading "SER. GALBA IMP." and he states the heads to be Aquaitaine, Narbone and Lyons. He gives two varieties. There is however, a coin with the head of Augustus on one side and three heads in a row on the other side with the inscription "C. MARIUS TRO III VIR" referring to Caius, Lucius and Julius. There is also an article in Stevenson's Dictionary under Tres Gallia. I still am sure that something has been written in recent years , being a new interpretation on this coin but cannot locate it.

I remain,

Yours very truly,

May 17th, 1918.

Mr. Francis W. Kelsey,
University of Michigan,
Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Dear Mr. Kelsey:-

I received the other day the book "Studies in East Christian and Roman Art" of the University of Michigan series, and beg to thank you very much for your courtesy and kindness in remembering me. I know I will take great pleasure in reading this, especially the second part containing the gold treasure.

I beg to thank you again, and remain,

Yours very truly,